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GIANCANA, Sam

Roselli, John

~~CRIMINAL MAFIA~~

CIA 104 MAHEU, Robert

CASTRO, Fidel

CIA 855C

CIA 104 Edwards

Sheffield

(orig under Gage)

2 Mafiosi Linked to C.I.A. Treated Leniently by U.S.

By NICHOLAS GAGE

Few organized-crime leaders have ever been pursued as vigorously by the Justice Department as was Sam Giancana in the early 1960's, according to official records. The late Mafia boss of Chicago was followed

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constantly, jailed for contempt and finally driven into self-exile in Mexico.

But the records show that on three occasions when Federal officials had Mr. Giancana in a tight spot, they let him out of it. They blocked his indictment on wiretap charges, declined to cross-examine him about his Mafia activities when they had the chance, and turned down an opportunity to send him back to jail.

The account of this unusual handling of a Mafia boss emerged from a two-month investigation by The New York Times of Mr. Giancana and John Roselli, another Mafia figure, focusing on the treatment they received from the Government after they participated in Central Intelligence Agency plots to assassinate Prime Minister Fidel Castro of Cuba.

The Times investigation was begun after it was disclosed that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence had uncovered evidence that the two Mafia leaders and President Kennedy had a close friendship with the same woman, Judith Campbell, in 1961 and 1962.

The investigation included interviews with present and former Government officials, persons who participated in the C.I.A. plots, underworld figures, and a long-time friend of Mr. Giancana and Mr. Roselli.

The Senate select committee disclosed that both Mr. Giancana and Mr. Roselli escaped prosecution on wiretap charges through the C.I.A.'s intervention in 1962. But The Times investigation found that the two men received generous treatment from the Federal authorities in other instances as well, and that, while Mr. Roselli tried to use his C.I.A. connections when he got into legal trouble, Mr. Giancana apparently did not.

Bizarre Liaison

The investigation also uncovered new details of the bizarre liaison between the C.I.A. and the Mafia that were not in the report that the Senate committee issued last November.

In an interview in Las Vegas, Nev., Robert A. Maheu, who has said he brought the C.I.A. and the Mafia together, recalled that in 1959 he met Mr. Roselli in Las Vegas, where he looked after the interests of the Chicago Mafia leaders.

After that meeting, Mr. Maheu and Mr. Roselli became friends and when Mr. Roselli's travels took him to Washington he would sometimes be invited to parties at Mr. Maheu's home in Virginia.

Mr. Maheu was then head of a detective agency in Washington (he later went to work for Howard R. Hughes, the industrialist) that received a \$500-a-month retainer from the C.I.A., and Mr. Roselli would often meet C.I.A. agents at the Maheu parties.

Mr. Maheu said that, when C.I.A. officials wanted to enlist the aid of the Mafia in the Castro assassination plot in 1960, they asked him to act as the intermediary.

Appeal to Patriotism

In an appearance before the Senate select committee, Mr. Maheu testified that Mr. Roselli was initially reluctant to take part in the assassination plot, but was eventually won over by an appeal to his patriotism. Mr. Roselli then recommended that Mr. Giancana, an old friend of his, be brought into the plot because of his excellent contacts in Cuba, gambling interests before Mr. Castro assumed power after the collapse of Fulgencio Batista's

According to a friend and confidant of Giancana, the Chicago boss was also reluctant to join the plot, and felt that the assassination would not succeed. "You can't hit a leader like Castro," Mr. Giancana told him, "but all they want from me is some names in Havana, so how can I turn them down?"

Mr. Roselli, Mr. Giancana and Mr. Maheu went to Miami Beach in the late summer of 1960 to plan the assassination attempt, according to Mr. Maheu, and the three men stayed there for several months, with their headquarters in the Fontainebleau Hotel.

Unhappy Over Separation

During that period Mr. Giancana's spirits were very low, according to both Mr. Maheu and the long-time confidant. He was unhappy at being separated from his girlfriend Phyllis McGuire, the singer, who, he believed, was seeing other men during his absence from Las Vegas.

"Sam was crazy in love with Phyllis at that time," Mr. Maheu recalled, "and threatened to drop everything and fly to Las Vegas to check up on her."

In an effort to keep him in Miami, Mr. Maheu said, he hired a private detective agency to shadow Miss McGuire, and one of its agents was arrested by the Las Vegas authorities while trying to tap the telephone of the entertainer Dan Rowan's hotel room. Mr. Maheu contended, in his interview with The Times, that he did not ask the detective agency to tap Mr. Rowan's hotel

the authorities were working for Mr. Maheu; Mr. Maheu then told the Federal Bureau of Investigation that he was involved in a C.I.A. operation.

"Sam was furious at Maheu for spilling the beans to the F.B.I. about the plot," Mr. Giancana's confidant said. "He thought Bob should have been a stand-up guy and taken the rap himself."

C.I.A. Intervened

The F.B.I. wanted to prosecute Mr. Maheu, Mr. Giancana and Mr. Roselli on wiretapping charges, but the C.I.A. eventually intervened with the Justice Department, and arranged to have the charges dropped, according to the Senate committee's report. But by then the C.I.A. was so fed up with Mr. Maheu and Mr. Giancana that they dropped them from the Castro assassination project, retaining only Mr. Roselli for new efforts against Mr. Castro in what was later referred to as "phase two" of the unsuccessful plot.

Herbert J. Miller, who was then the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, said that the decision not to prosecute Mr. Maheu and Mr. Giancana for wiretapping was made reluctantly.

"We weren't happy about it, but we felt we had to do it for the national interest," he said in an interview.

It has been speculated that Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, knowing that Mr. Giancana and Mr. Roselli could embarrass the Kennedy Administration with their story of the C.I.A. plot, told his men to go easy on the two Mafia leaders. But the opposite happened, according to William G. Hundley, chief of the Organized Crime Section under Mr. Kennedy.